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Committee on Information
Thirty-fifth session
22 April-2 May 2013
Consideration and adoption of the report of the Committee to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session

Draft report

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I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 34/182, the General Assembly decided to maintain the Committee to Review United Nations Public Information Policies and Activities, established by its resolution 33/115 C, which would be known as the Committee on Information, and to increase its membership from 41 to 66. In section I, paragraph 2, of resolution 34/182, the Assembly requested the Committee:

> "(a) To continue to examine United Nations public information policies and activities, in the light of the evolution of international relations, particularly during the past two decades, and of the imperatives of the establishment of the new international economic order and of a new world information and communication order;
>
> "(b) To evaluate and follow up the efforts made and the progress achieved by the United Nations system in the field of information and communications;
>
> "(c) To promote the establishment of a new, more just and more effective world information and communication order intended to strengthen peace and international understanding and based on the free circulation and wider and better balanced dissemination of information and to make recommendations thereon to the General Assembly"

and requested the Committee and the Secretary-General to report to it at its thirty-fifth session.

2. The General Assembly, from its thirty-sixth to sixty-sixth sessions, took note of the reports of the Committee and adopted consensus resolutions. At its sixty-seventh session, the Assembly took note of the report of the Committee and adopted consensus resolutions 67/124 A and B.

3. Currently, the Committee is composed of the following Member States:

Algeria
Angola
Antigua and Barbuda
Argentina
Armenia
Austria
Azerbaijan
Bangladesh
Belarus
Belgium
Belize
Benin
Brazil
Bulgaria
Burkina Faso
Burundi
Cape Verde
Chile
China
Colombia
Congo
Costa Rica
Côte d'Ivoire
Croatia
Cuba
Cyprus
Czech Republic
Democratic People's Republic of Korea
Democratic Republic of the Congo
Denmark
Dominican Republic
Ecuador
Egypt
El Salvador
Ethiopia
Finland
France
Gabon
Georgia
Germany

Ghana
Greece
Guatemala
Guinea
Guyana
Hungary
Iceland
India
Indonesia
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Ireland
Israel
Italy
Jamaica
Japan
Jordan
Kazakhstan
Kenya
Lebanon
Liberia
Libya
Luxembourg
Madagascar
Malta
Mexico
Monaco
Mongolia
Morocco
Mozambique
Nepal
Netherlands
Niger
Nigeria
Oman
Pakistan
Peru
Philippines
Poland
Portugal
Qatar
Republic of Korea
Republic of Moldova
Romania
Russian Federation
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Saudi Arabia
Senegal
Sierra Leone
Singapore
Slovakia
Solomon Islands
Somalia
South Africa
Spain
Sri Lanka
Sudan
Suriname
Switzerland
Syrian Arab Republic
Thailand
Togo
Trinidad and Tobago
Tunisia
Turkey
Ukraine
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
United Republic of Tanzania
United States of America
Uruguay
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
Viet Nam
Yemen
Zambia
Zimbabwe

II. Organizational questions

A. Opening of the session

4. The organizational meeting of the thirty-fifth session of the Committee on Information was held on 22 April 2013 at United Nations Headquarters. The session was opened by Chibaula D. Silwamba (Zambia), Vice-Chair of the Committee.

B. Election of officers

5. In accordance with the principle of geographical rotation, the Committee held elections for a new bureau for a two-year term. Upon her nomination by the representative of Asia-Pacific States, Lyutha Al-Mughairy (Oman) was elected Chair by acclamation. Upon their nomination by the representatives of Latin American and Caribbean States, Eastern European States and Western European and other States, respectively, Gabriel Orellana Zabalza (Guatemala), Yehor Pyvovarov (Ukraine) and Juan Manuel González de Linares Palou (Spain) were elected Vice-Chairs by acclamation. Upon his nomination by a representative of African States, Mr. Silwamba was elected Rapporteur, also by acclamation. The officers of the Committee on Information for the period 2013-2014 are as follows:

Chair:

Lyutha Al-Mughairy (Oman)

Vice-Chairs:

Gabriel Orellana Zabalza (Guatemala)
Yehor Pyvovarov (Ukraine)
Juan Manuel González de Linares Palou (Spain)

Rapporteur:

Chibaula D. Silwamba (Zambia)

C. Adoption of the agenda and programme of work

6. At its organizational meeting, on 22 April, the Committee adopted the following agenda and programme of work (A/AC.198/2013/1):

1. Opening of the session.
2. Election of officers.
3. Adoption of the agenda and programme of work.
4. Admission of new members.
5. Statement by the Chair.
6. Statement by the Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information.
7. General debate.
8. Consideration of reports submitted by the Secretary-General.
9. Open-ended working group of the Committee on Information.
10. Consideration and adoption of the report of the Committee to the General Assembly at its sixty-eighth session.

7. The Committee held its general debate on 22 and 23 April 2013. On 22 April, in the afternoon, the Department of Public Information, led by the Under-Secretary-General for Communications and Public Information, held an interactive dialogue with Member States.

8. For its consideration of agenda item 7, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Department of Public Information: strategic communications services (A/AC.198/2013/2);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Department of Public Information: news services (A/AC.198/2013/3);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the Department of Public Information: outreach services (A/AC.198/2013/4).

D. Observers

9. Fiji took part in the session as an observer. The Holy See, the State of Palestine, the European Union, the International Organization of la Francophonie and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization also participated in the session as observers.